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Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 INR-05 L-01 EB-03 SP-02

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, CU
SUBJECT: FRG-CUBAN RELATIONS

REF: USNATO 6024

1. DURING ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION AT FRG FOREIGN OFFICE OCTOBER 28 WITH COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN, FRG FONOFF REP (RUHFUS) INFOED US SIDE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF RESUMPTION OF STATE GUARANTEES FOR GERMAN EXPORT DELIVERIES TO CUBA. HE STRESSED THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE SAID THE FRG AND CUBA HAD ALREADY REACHED AGREEMENT ON PAYMENT OF DEBTS OWED TO FRG AT THE TIME RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE BROKEN OFF. THE CUBAN STATE BANK HAD BEGUN MAKING PAYMENTS. RUHFUS SAID THAT ANY GUARANTEES WOULD NATURALLY BE LIMITED IN AMOUNT BOTH ON POLITICAL GROUNDS AND BECAUSE THE FRG WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT CUBA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN STATED THAT THE FRG POLICY SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON ANY ASSUMPTION THAT US
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POLICY WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE. COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT

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THOUGHT THAT THE FRG ACTION WOULD CREATE NO DISCORDANT
NOTE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES SO LONG AS THE FRG MOVE,
IF CARRIED THROUGH, WAS DONE QUIETLY AND WITHOUT FANFARE.
HE ASKED THAT THE FRG STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE US
ON THE MATTER OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA. FRG SIDE AGREED
TO DO SO.
HILLENBRAND

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